DOCUMENT RESUME

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The One Room Schoolhouse, Matzke Elementary School.
Cypress-Fairbanks School District, Houston, Tex.
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The planning and realization of a one room schoolhouse in Houston, Texas to be part of a complex which will include a junior and senior high school. The educational premise of the structure is that the school which traditionally has been an instrument organized around the concept of convenience for the administrator and the teacher, now appropriately can become an instrument for learning in which students participate through the media of a continuous progress plan. Photographs, floor plans, and specifications account for a greater part of the description. (FPO)

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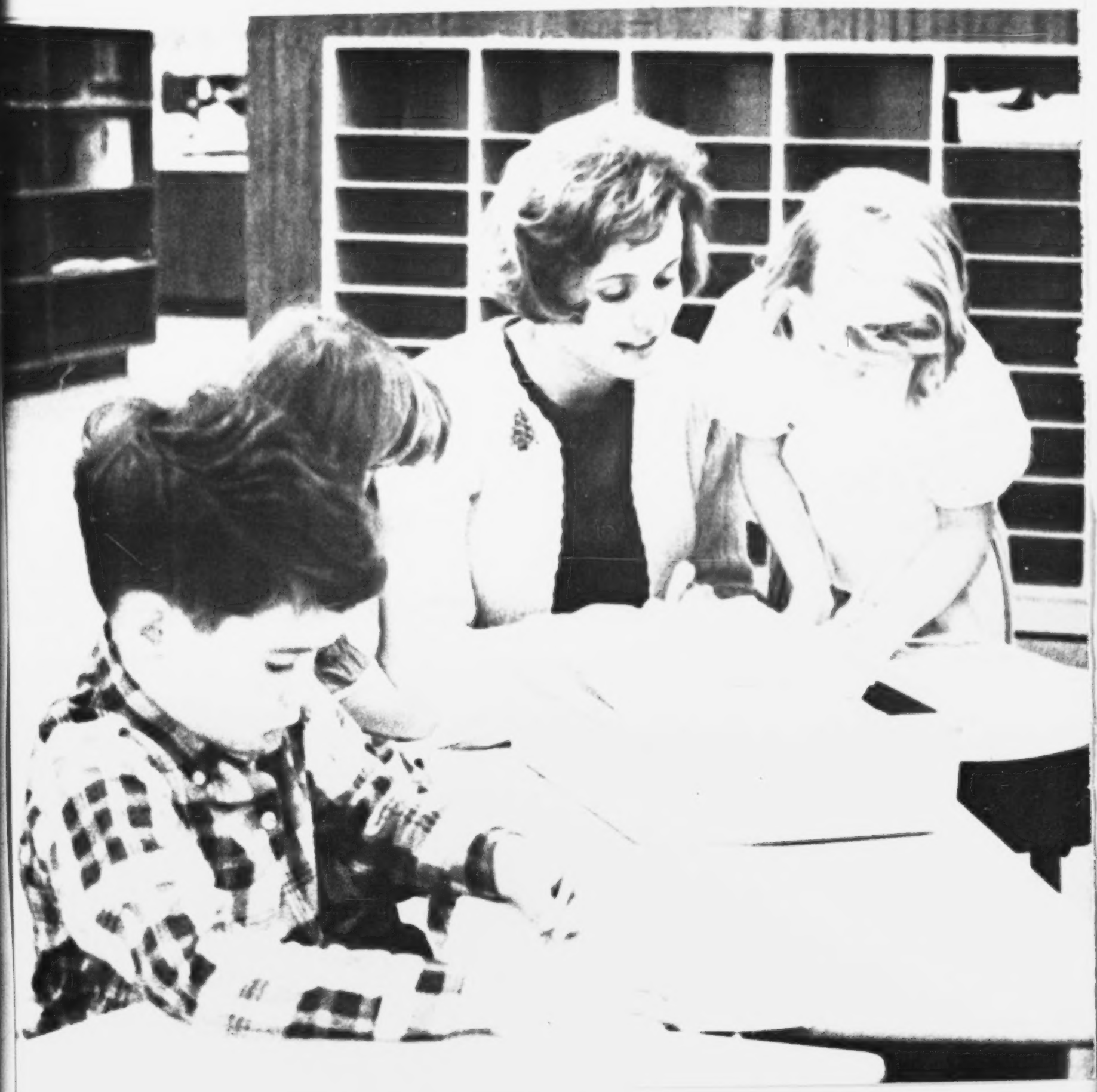

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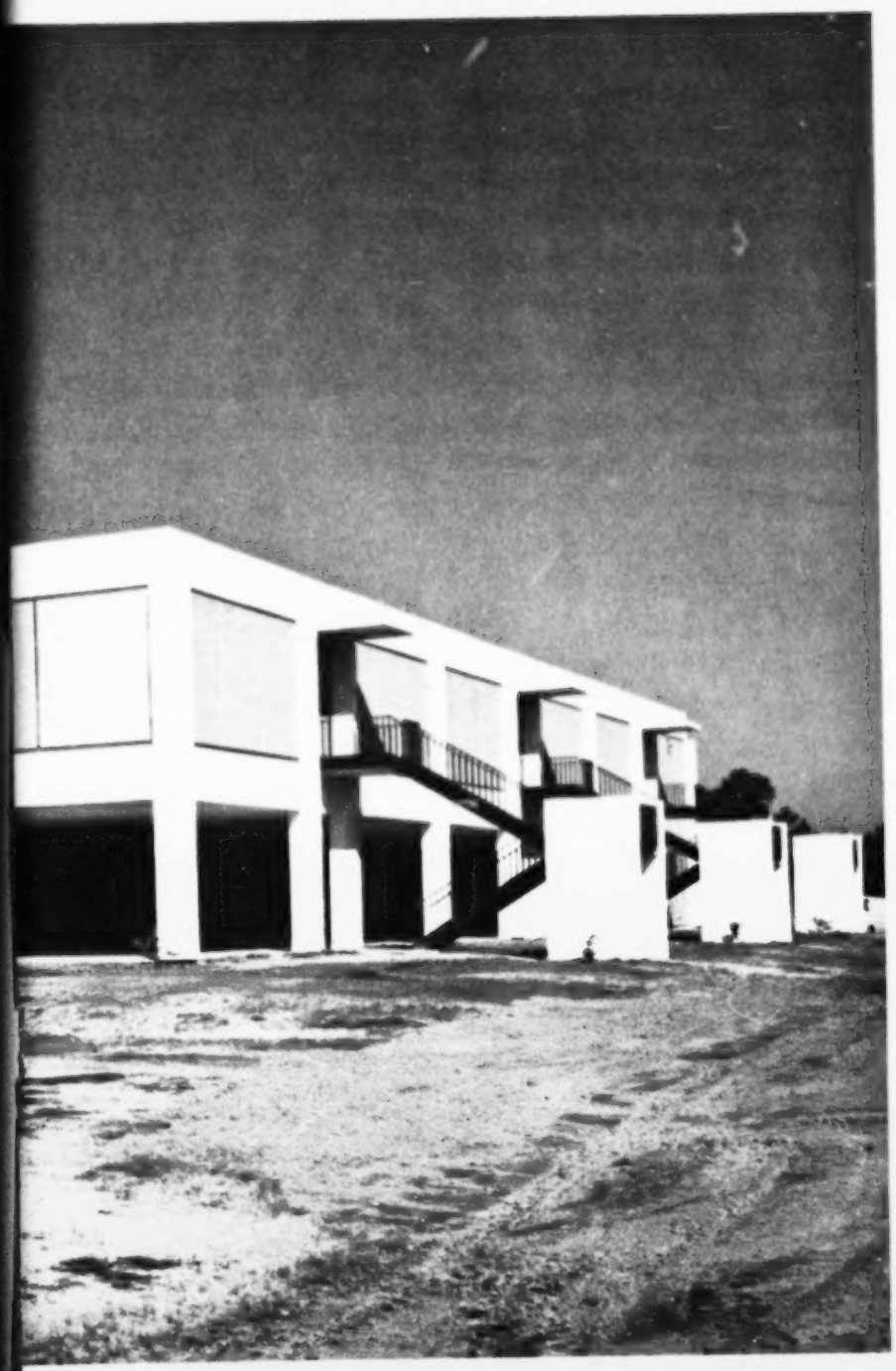
THE ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE

MATZKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

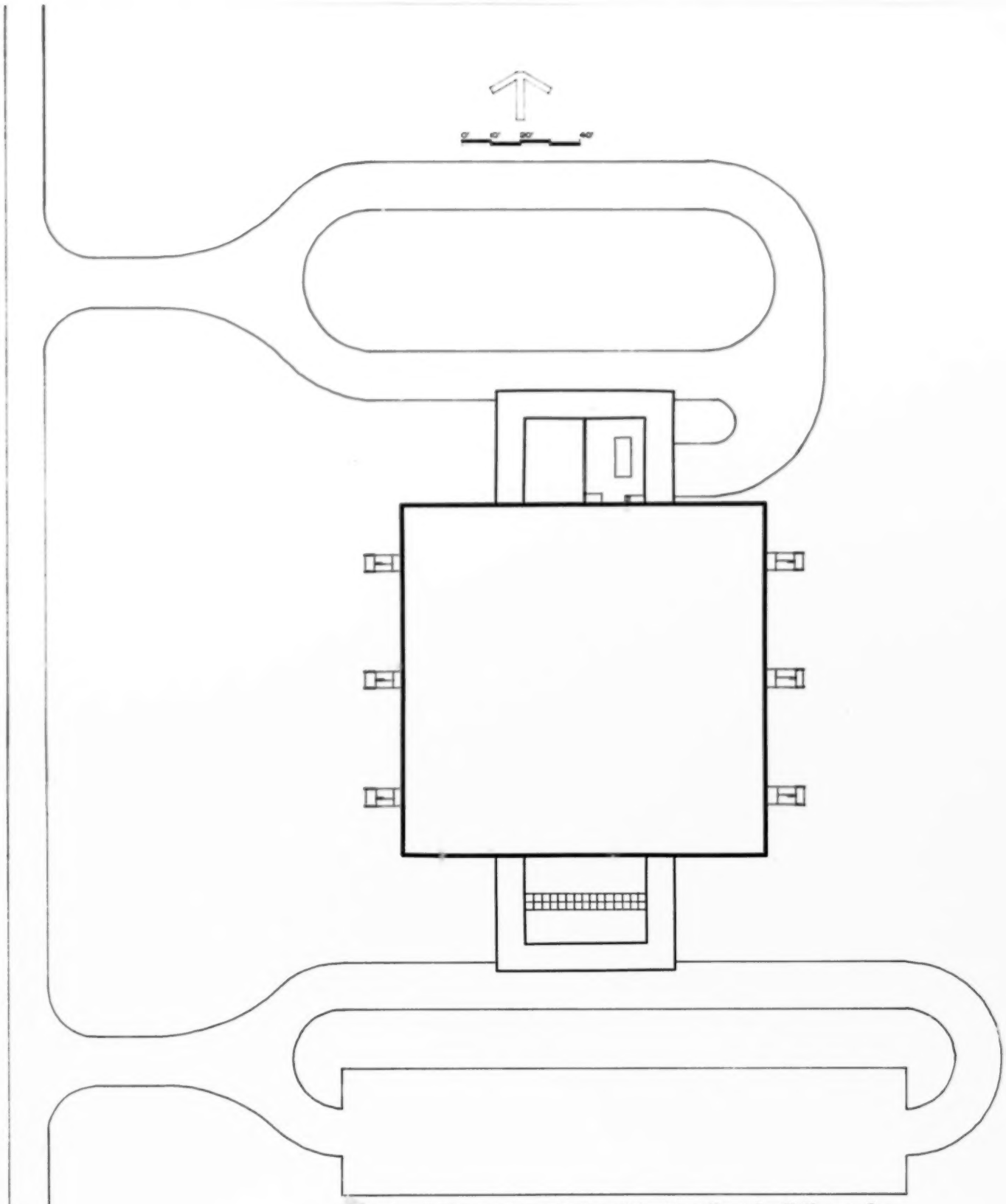
CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

WILSON, MORRIS, CRAIN & ANDERSON—ARCHITECTS A.I.A.

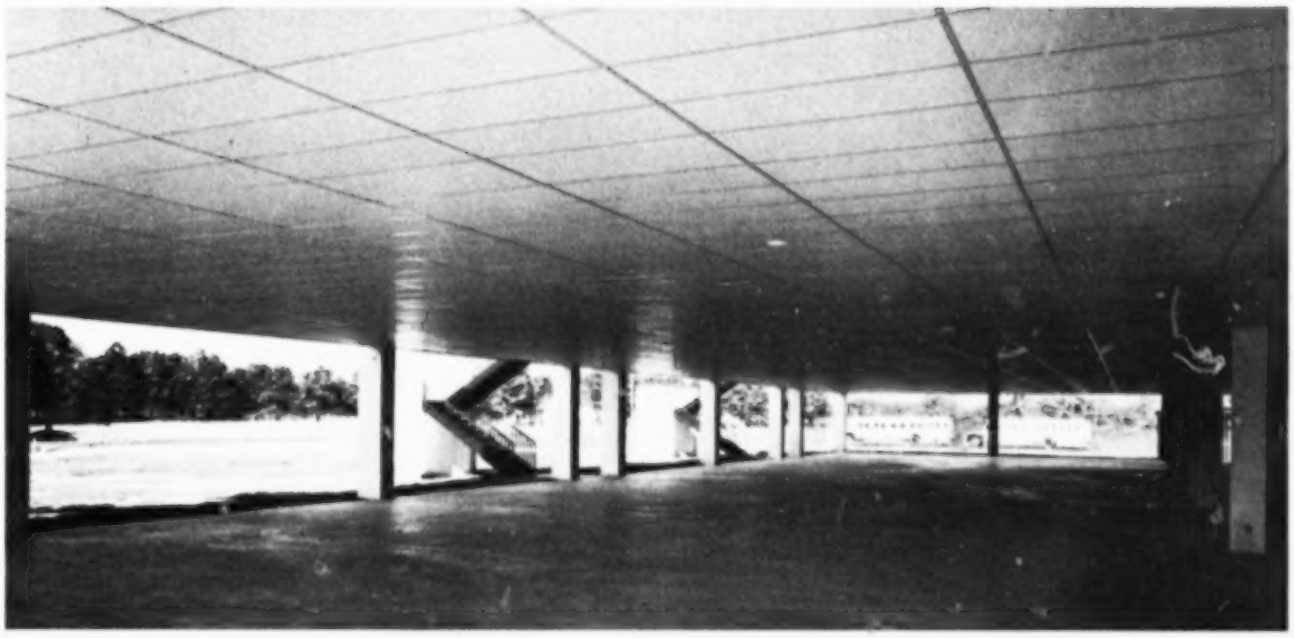


"From the beginning the schoolhouse has been an instrument of the administrator and of the teacher. It has been organized around a concept which provides for convenience of administration and for convenience of teaching. What we are about to learn, at long last, is that what we wish to take place in the schoolhouse is learning—not teaching. No longer can this country afford the luxury of handing one teacher thirty students and expecting her to teach them, by rote, a measured amount of knowledge. It has always been true, of course, that the intelligent man continues to study and to learn after his formal education is completed. In our future, or at least in the future of today's students, this continuation of study will become a necessity. Right now, today, it is not possible to teach, in the short time allotted, all that is required for satisfactory existence in today's society. What we will be doing in tomorrow's schoolhouses is learning. Learning how to learn. Teaching how to learn. Learning by teaching."

T. S. Hancock
Superintendent of Schools
Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District

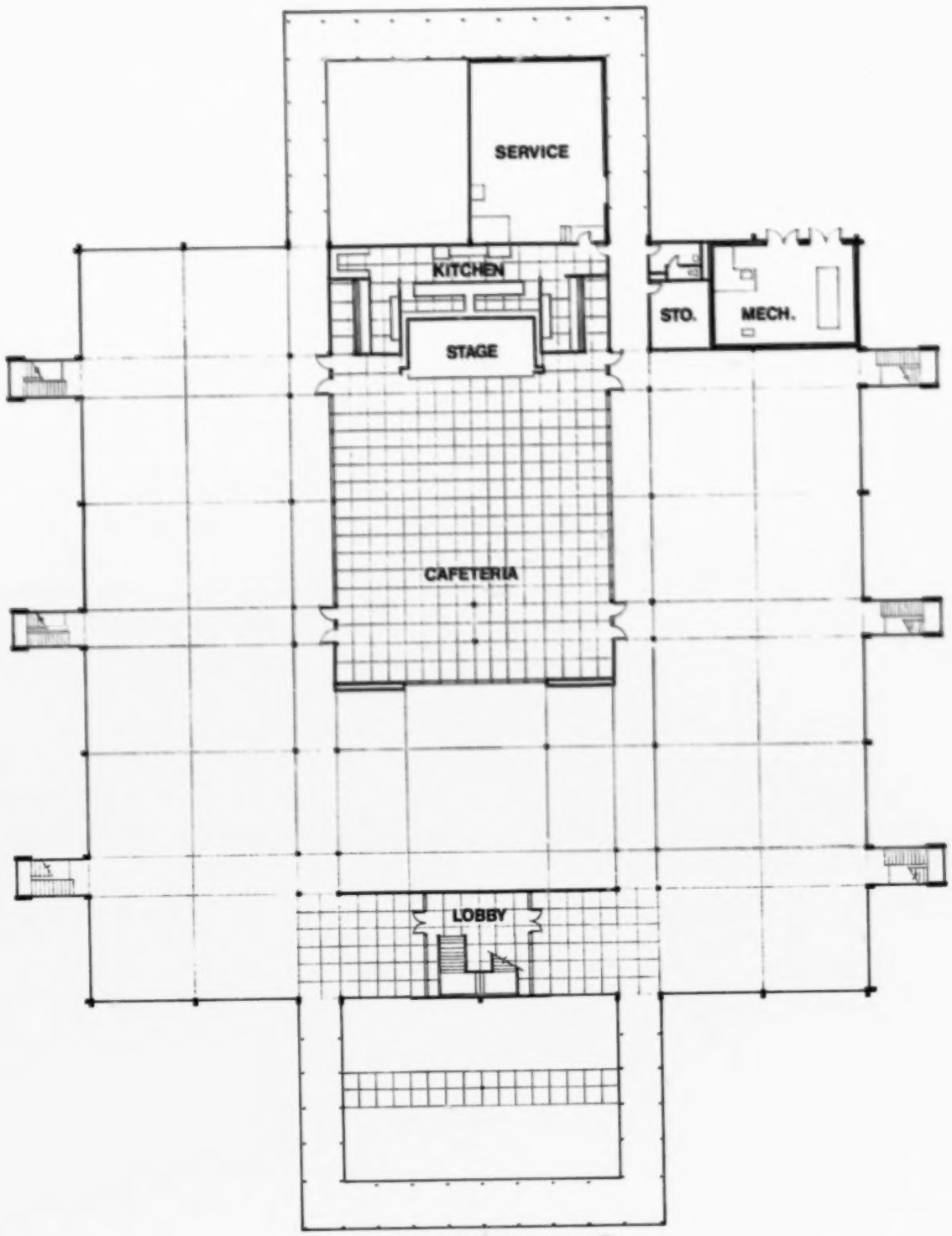


Matzke Elementary School is the first building of a complex which will ultimately contain a junior high school and a senior high school.

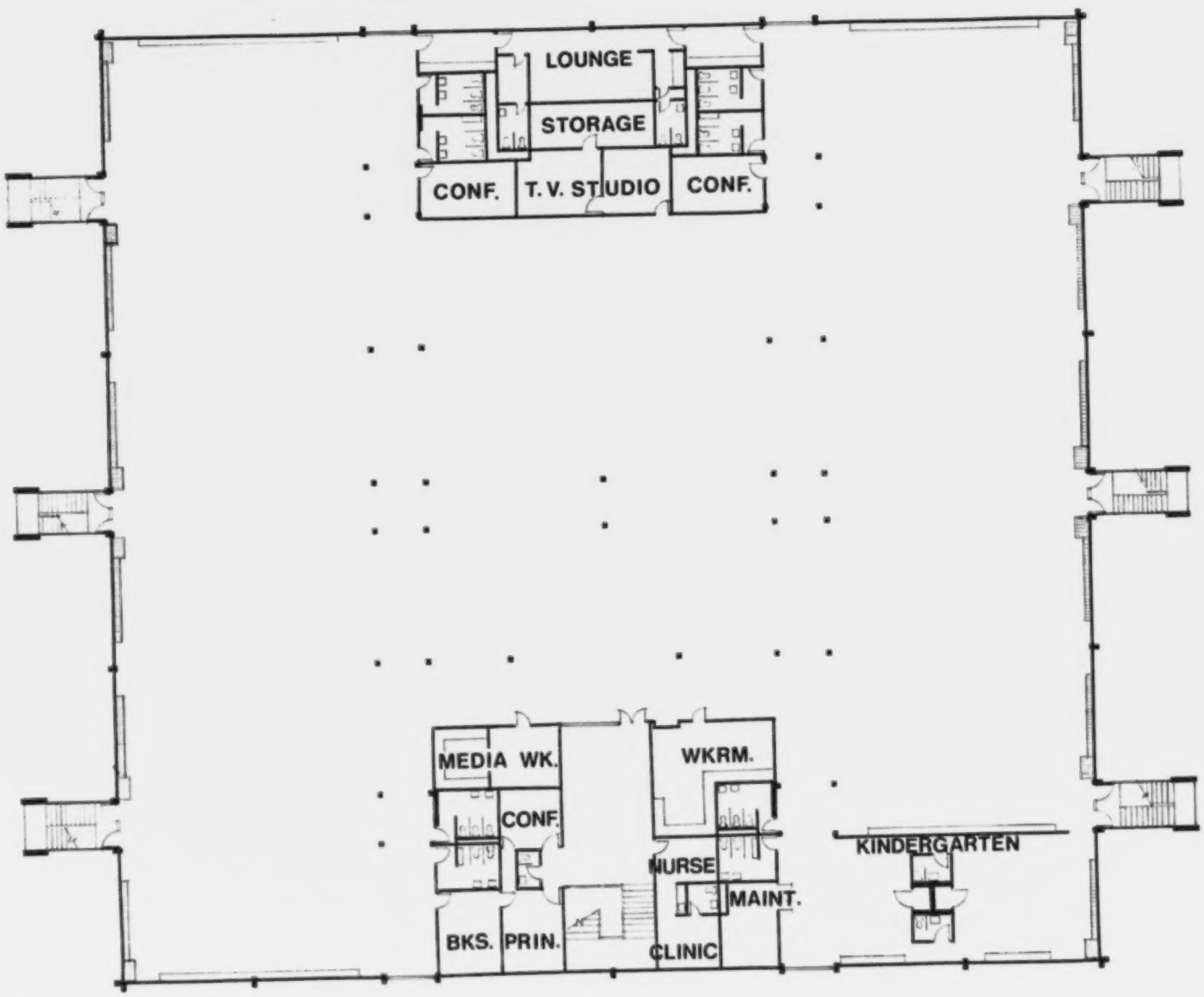


There are two reasons for the open first floor. In rapidly growing areas, such as that of the Cypress-Fairbanks School District, it is difficult to determine when additional classrooms should be added. The longer the superintendent can wait to decide how much to add, the more accurate his estimate will become. At Matzke all that need be done is to provide the exterior wall, install light fixtures, paint, install carpet and other miscellaneous work, and additional learning space is available; quickly, and with a minimum of confusion.

The other reason is economy. The more units of anything bought at one time, the lower the unit cost. By doing this much of future work at the beginning, all work is purchased at a lower unit cost. The open first floor space is quite usable for many functions in the interim. Matzke in the first phase cost $725,000.00, including air conditioning and carpet. This amounts to $13.50 per square foot, by the standard A.I.A. method. It amounts to $28,000.00 per teaching station, and $1,200.00 per pupil station. The Contractor bid $189,000.00 to complete the building to the full forty-eight classroom equivalent, bringing the cost to $914,000.00. This reduces the cost per teacher station to $18,000.00, and per student station to $760.00.

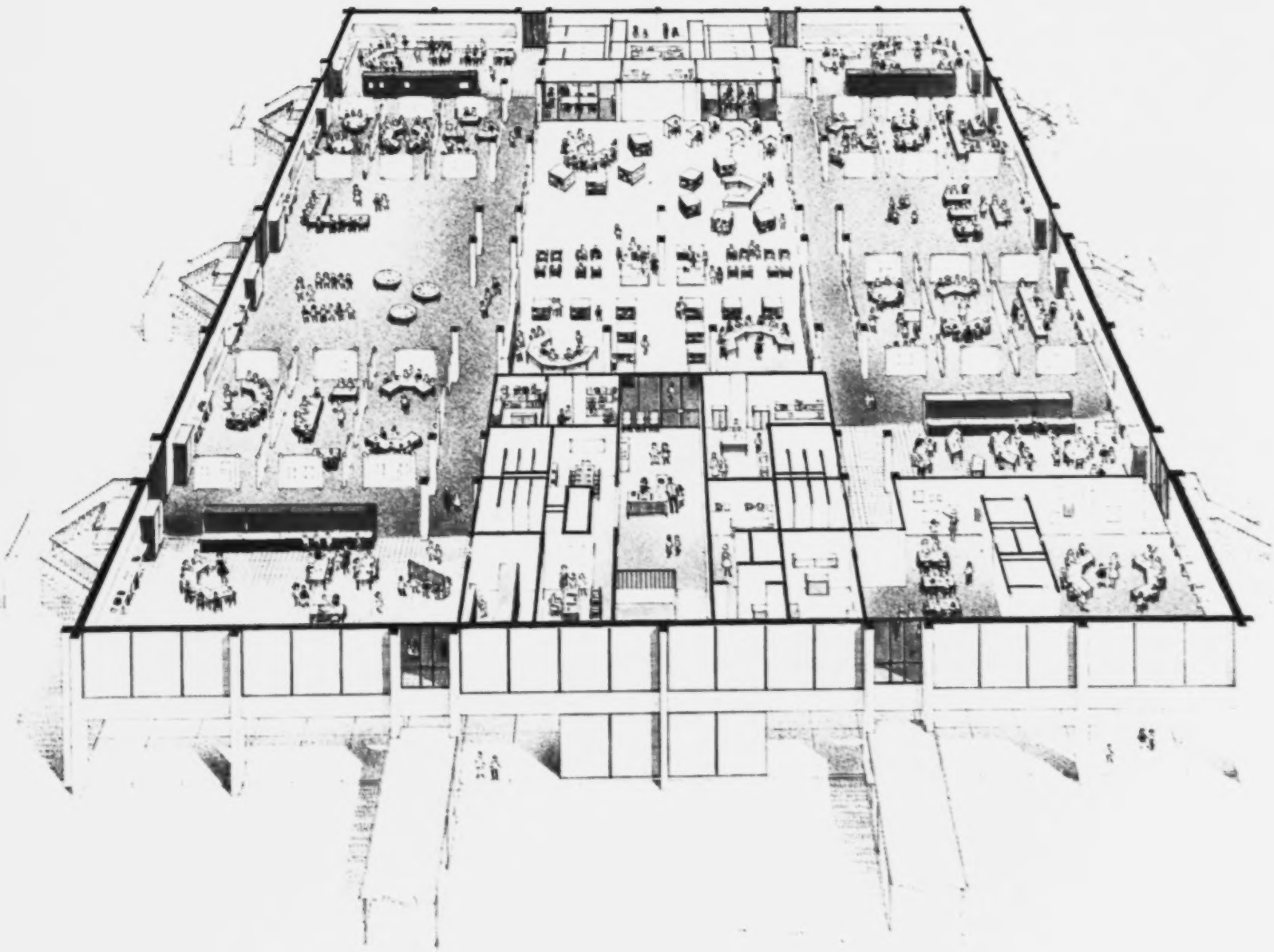


FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

CONCEPT



REALITY

During the thirty year financing period of a typical school many changes will be made in the processes by which we prepare our children for their futures. The schoolhouses we build today must be amenable to change. Better, it should enable and encourage change. It should not be designed to fit a "fixed"' program. The Ernestine Matzke Elementary School building, as operated now, houses an individualized instruction program in a continuous progress organization. All who were a part of its planning believe that it will successfully house future programs. It could even return to the self-contained classroom layout. Matzke is the result of three years of planning by a team composed of the Board and Administrative Staff of the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District, representatives of the College of Education, University of Texas, and Wilson, Morris, Crain & Anderson, A.I.A., Architects. Planning began as a result of a number of discussions between T. S. Hancock, Superintendent of Schools and Blair Rowland of Wilson, Morris, Crain & Anderson, concerning the educational process. What was envisioned as a result of these discussions was a program whereby learning, rather than teaching, becomes the central focus; and through which each individual student receives the opportunity to progress at his maximum capacity without regard to the relative capacity of his peers.

The team teaching now being conducted at the Matzke School permits such a program. While most familiar team teaching programs rely heavily on large group instruction, the Matzke program

does not. The emphasis here is on small group instruction in all areas other than science, art and physical education. Considerable information is received from the resource center rather than from the teacher. With a wide range of student oriented and student operated media, the resource center is the heart of the school. Time spent by the student in the resource center frees the teacher to work individually with the student who is having difficulty. Extensive use of multi-media teaching tools enables each student to learn by the method that best fits his cognitive style. Removed from the autonomy of the self-contained classroom, teachers grow professionally. Weaknesses are discovered and strengths utilized. Each student receives the opportunity to benefit from the strengths of a team of

teachers. Through working with smaller groups, the teacher becomes more aware of the student as an individual and can better provide for individual differences.
Emphasis is placed on:
Students becoming more responsible.
Students directing, to a limited extent, their own learning experience.
Instruction in depth according to each student's ability, interest and desire and not dependent upon a pre-determined direction.
The Matzke School attempts to fit the instructional program to the individual student, rather than fitting all students into the same mold, or even into one of two or three tracks.
The Matzke building was not designed for its current program, it was designed to allow this program.

Location of School
Houston, Texas

Owner
Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District

Superintendent of Schools
T. S. Hancock

Principal
Mrs. Kyle Killough

Present Capacity
600 Students

Area of Building
56,827 Square Feet

Volume of Building
568,270 Cubic Feet

Space per Student
94.7 Square Feet

Cost of Construction
$766,392.00

Per Student Cost
$1,277.00

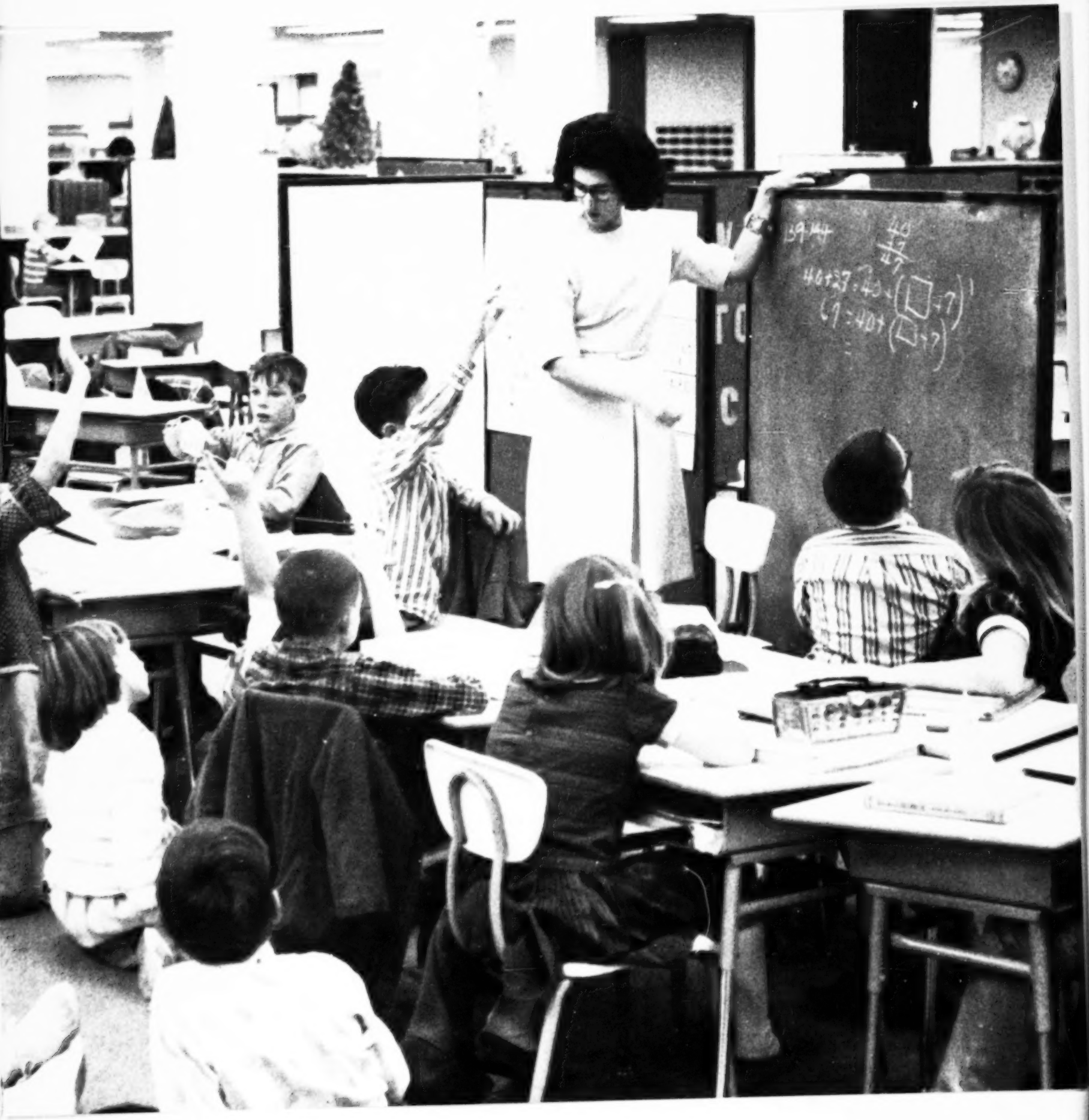
Square Foot Cost
$13.48

Cubic Foot Cost
$ .135

Date Contract Awarded
20 December 1965

General Contractor
Marshall Construction Company, Houston, Texas

Consultants:
Structural, Walter P. Moore
Electrical and Mechanical, Cook & Holle
Food Handling, Mulhauser, Holmes & Riggs



WILSON
MORRIS
CRAIN &
ANDERSON